



International Special Forces Training Course (ISFTC)

United States Army

John F. Kennedy

Special Warfare Center and
School

Problem Statement

While transforming our SOF training programs to ensure continued relevancy in the current operational environment; how do we ensure we don't exclude our allies and what can we do to assist them and support their critical role in the War on Terrorism?

- Can we do for coalition SOF interoperability what Joint operations are doing for U.S. inter-service operability?

“Working with other nation’s militaries and other governmental agencies, the Armed Forces help to establish favorable security conditions and increase the capabilities of partners.”

The National Military Strategy of the United States of America, 2004

“International partnerships continue to be a principal source of our strength.”

National Defense Strategy of the United States of America. March, 2005

Vision

- The International Special Forces Training Course is the accepted standard for Special Forces training throughout the international Special Operations Forces (SOF) community; and facilitates coalition SOF interoperability in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT)



Mission

The USAJFKSWCS provides a relevant Special Forces training course for International Military Students (IMS) that is physically demanding, academically rigorous and provides the graduate the necessary skills to enhance his country's SOF program and facilitate interoperability of coalition SOF.

Commander's Intent

Purpose: To enhance the combat effectiveness of U.S. and coalition SOF in the GWOT by providing our coalition partners with relevant Special Forces training that assists them in the advancement of their SOF program and facilitates coalition SOF interoperability on today's battlefield.

Key Tasks:

- Develop a complete program of instruction with established standards, physically demanding, and academically rigorous
- Leverage already developed training and courses
- Facilitate the exchange of tactics, techniques, and operating procedures based on recent lessons learned in combat
- Provide the IMS with an understanding of U.S. training concepts and operational methodology
- Prepare the IMS to train his Soldiers upon return, and work with U.S. and other coalition SOF in today's contemporary operational environment

Endstate: Graduates of the ISFTC are key personnel in their respective SOF units with the necessary skills to advance his country's SOF program and facilitate coalition SOF combat operations

Facts

(1 of 2)

- We have a vested interest in coalition SOF capabilities and participation in the GWOT
- Many friendly nations are in the developmental stage of establishing SOF
- The previous IMS experience in the Special Forces Qualification Course (SFQC) was a fragmented, incomplete course.
 - Disservice to them
 - Not the example we want to set
- Providing the IMS with the tools to train his own Soldiers upon return provides greater long-term benefits to our allies

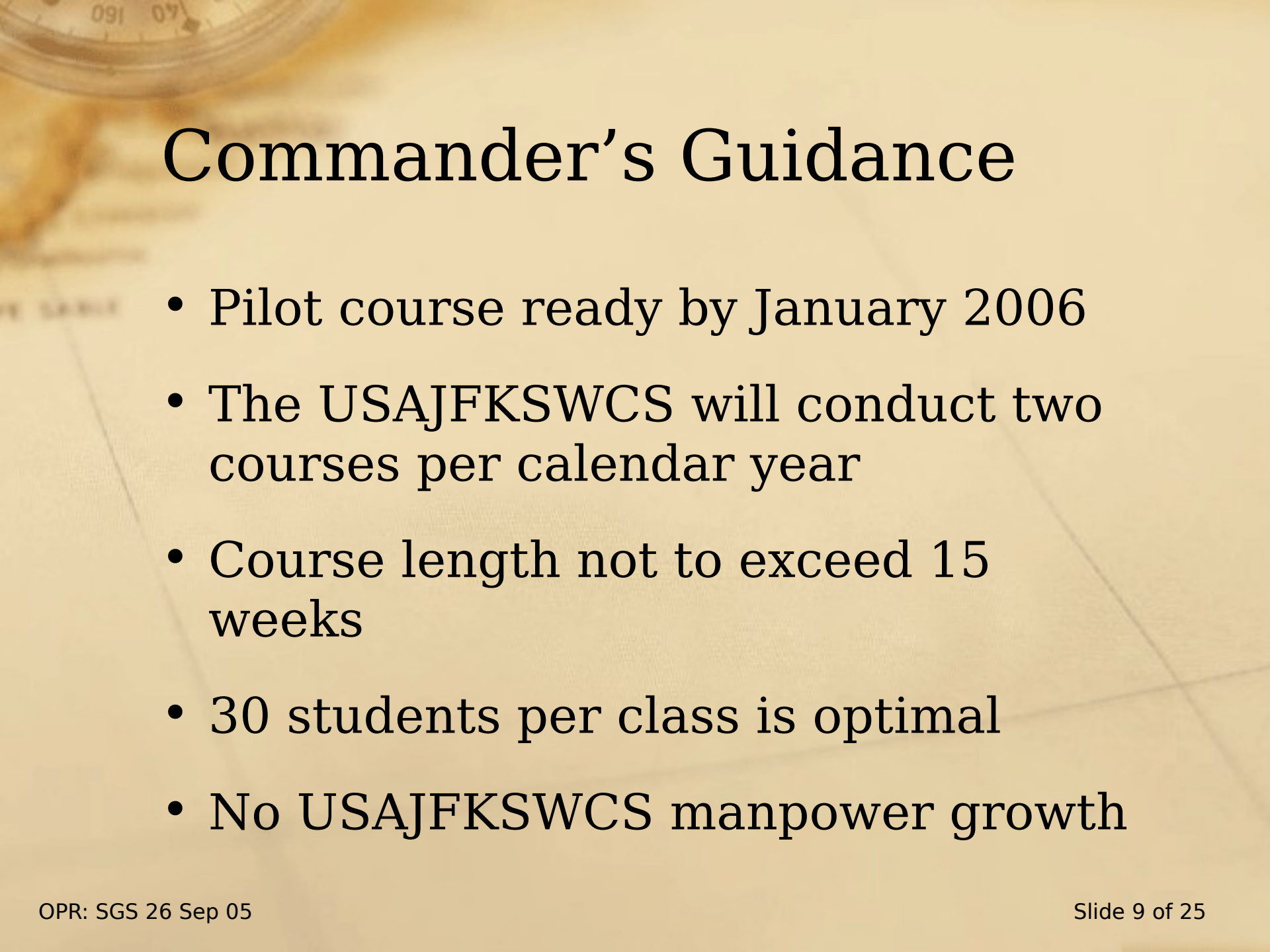
Facts

(2 of 2)

- The SFQC is now a classified course to provide required instruction to U.S. SF students
- USSOCOM Directive 350-27 *Release of Special Operations Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures, 24 Apr 05* effects all USSOCOM training centers and foreign student attendance
 - TTPs in all USAJFKSWCS courses under review
- The new model for the flow through the “SF pipeline” does not accommodate the integration or separation of IMS as did the old model

Assumptions

- We can provide a relevant training program that is designed to IMS requirements and welcomed by friendly nations
- No additional manpower required in SWCS
- Resource impact will be absorbed by IMET and FMS funding
- Current SF training attendance of approximately 60 IMS year will remain sufficient



Commander's Guidance

- Pilot course ready by January 2006
- The USAJFKSWCS will conduct two courses per calendar year
- Course length not to exceed 15 weeks
- 30 students per class is optimal
- No USAJFKSWCS manpower growth

Course Design





The ISFTC Graduate

- Proficient in small unit tactics
- Knowledgeable of SFODA organization and each MOS
- Understands Special Forces operational concepts; ODA thru TSOC
- Competent as an instructor
- Physically fit, trained in hand to hand combat, and small arms marksmanship
- Fosters teamwork; a confident small unit leader; trained to operate with U.S. and coalition SOF



Questions?



Backup slides follow

What has changed in the SFQC?

- Transforming the SFQC for continued relevancy required changes to course content and the training model
 - Adding more classified instruction, ASOT, Interagency operations; sensitive Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures
 - Foreign language training is woven throughout the SFQC Program of Instruction
 - Encompasses all ten of the core languages taught at the USAJFKSWCS
 - Evolving tactics, techniques, and procedures require OPSEC safeguards
 - Interagency operations are the norm
 - Adding relevant, current operational vignettes
 - Incorporating battlefield lessons learned and revised critical tasks quickly
 - SF Tactics, SERE, PGD/HD instruction has been added; embedded throughout the course
 - Reliance on technology and web-based training
- Course prerequisites for SFQC attendance have not changed
 - Due to changes in course content, we are enforcing them
 - IMS can attend if they meet the prerequisites of USSOCOM Directives and the Army Training and Requirements Resources System (ATRRS)
 - Includes security clearance requirements



Typical International Student

- From a Special Forces or Commando Unit
- Likely has combat experience
- Is 29 years old
- Airborne qualified
- Basic understanding of the English language

The background of the slide features a faded, sepia-toned image of a compass in the upper left corner and a map with various lines and markings across the rest of the page.

Special Forces Assessment and Selection

(conducted with U.S. counterparts)

- Swim test
- Land navigation
- Individual physical fitness events
- Road marches
- Long range movements
- Obstacle course
- Team events

Instructor Training Course* (ITC)

- Methods and techniques of instruction
- After action reviews
- Conduct of counseling sessions
- Apply the risk management process
- 4 graded presentations
 - 1 - lesson plan, 3 - country study
- Identify course objectives
- Develop learning objectives, training plans, and training sessions

* TRADOC approved course for U.S.
instructors

U.S. Special Operations

- U.S. SOF overview and Special Forces history
- Theater Special Operations Command organization and operations
- Army security assistance
 - How to request training and support through security assistance organizations for IMET, FMS, etc.
- Coalition/Joint Special Operations Task Force organization and operations
- Special Forces Group and below organization
 - Operational Detachment “Alpha” organization and operations
- Civil Affairs operations
- Psychological operations
- Special Forces Advanced Skills orientation
 - Military Freefall, Combat Diver, Sniper, Advanced urban combat
- Noncommissioned Officer Academy
 - Orientation to NCO Education System

Small Unit Tactics

(conducted with U.S. counterparts)

- Hand to hand combat
- Troop leading procedures
- Patrolling individual tasks
- Patrolling collective tasks (ambush, raid, recon)
- Move under fire
- Laws of war
- Conduct a defense
- Advanced rifle marksmanship and tactics
- Use of night vision devices
- Helicopter operations

Military Occupational Specialty Training

Students will spend one week with each MOS for duties and responsibilities, training method, and basic understand of MOS Capabilities. This training will be a specific Program of Instruction for IMS to give them a better overall understanding of each MOS in a shorter time frame

18A Special Forces Detachment Commander

- Day one: U.S. Special Forces History and introduction to U.S. Army Special Forces
- Day two: Special Forces missions and fundamentals of Special Reconnaissance (SR), Direct Action (DA), and Foreign Internal Defense (FID)
- Day three: Military Decision Making Process (MDMP) and Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield (IPB)
- Day four: SR Mission Planning Exercise (MPE)
- Day five: DA MPE

18B Special Forces Weapons Sergeant

- Day one: Basic weapons operations
- Day two: Machine guns; rifles; pistols; submachine guns; grenade launchers
- Day three: Introduction to mortars 60mm, 81mm, 120mm
- Day four: Introduction to Forward Observer and FDC
- Day five: Vehicle mounted weapons; range operations

18C Special Forces Engineer Sergeant

- Day one: Role of 18C, blue prints; construction; concrete and masonry
- Day two: Mines and unexploded ordinance capabilities and responsibilities
- Day three: Calculation and placement of charges
- Day four: Demolitions mission planning; duties and responsibilities
- Day five: Live demolition range

18D Special Forces Medical Sergeant

- Day one through three: Ranger First Responder Course (Trauma management)
- Day four: Casualty Response for Leaders practical exercise
- Day five: Preventive medicine



18E Special Forces Communications Sergeant

- Day one: Radio theory; operations; and procedures
- Day two: RTO duties and responsibilities; procedures
- Day three: Radio net planning
- Day four: Antenna theory; site selection; practical exercise
- Day five: Radio and antenna planning and operations in the field; maintenance of radio and antenna systems